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December 20, 2001

Via Facsimile

Jeffrey M. Szuma, Esq.
Brooks & Kushman P.C.
1000 Town Center, 22nd Floor
Southfield, MI 48075

Re: StorageTek Patent

Dear Mr. Szuma:

I am writing to follow up regarding the new patent application you asked me to forward to Mr. Kuik. As I did with your previous correspondence, I have forwarded your latest correspondence, dated December 17, and the enclosed, sealed envelope to Tim Kuik.

I did not open the envelopes you asked me to forward to Mr. Kuik, nor has Mr. Kuik disclosed any of the contents of those envelopes with me. However, Mr. Kuik has asked me to convey the following points to you.

First, from his review of the materials, Mr. Kuik does not believe a patent is possible because the idea or concept which is the subject of the proposed patent previously existed in the public domain. He said that in particular there is prior art in the academic community. He said that as best he can recall that the work at StorageTek was derivative of academic work. He also stated that there already are several companies with products in the area. For these reasons, he is not willing to simply sign the declaration you have sent to him. Mr. Kuik is willing to investigate further whether there may be some unique, patentable aspect to this idea, but it may take him some time, perhaps a matter of months, to do so.

Second, to do a thorough review of this patent application, Mr. Kuik indicates that he probably would need to speak with certain representatives of StorageTek. He is uncomfortable with this, however, given the present situation where StorageTek and its lawyers at Brooks & Kushman have made certain accusations and allegations of wrongdoing against him, which allegations are completely untrue. He is concerned by the conflict of interest Brooks &

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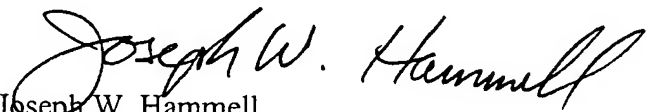
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Kushman and StorageTek would have in this situation. He also is concerned that StorageTek and/or Brooks & Kushman somehow might try use his work on this patent application or communications regarding that patent application against him in other litigation. Therefore, he would only be willing to work on this patent application if (1) he did not have to work with anyone at Brooks & Kushman or anyone else who is involved on the pending litigation, and (2) StorageTek would have to agree that nothing related to this project, including any communications regarding this project, could be used against him or Cisco in any present or future legal action.

Third, Mr. Kuik asked me to convey that StorageTek may not have correctly identified or given credit to all the persons who should be listed as the actual inventors. He did not indicate to me who the other individuals might be who were involved with the subject of this patent.

It is clear to me that Mr. Kuik is trying to be as cooperative as possible with StorageTek under difficult circumstances. I think the points he raises and requests he has made are eminently reasonable. Please let me know what response I should communicate to him from StorageTek.

Very truly yours,


Joseph W. Hammell

JWH:mmc
cc: Tim Kuik